

Application Number 10/519892  
Response to Office Action dated 01/18/2007

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**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 4, line 5 through page 5, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Thirdly, in the lancing apparatus 8, it is desirable that the blood introduction portion 95 is located as close to the lancing position as possible. This is because, as the blood introduction portion 95 is farther from the lancing position, the blood is less likely to come into contact with the blood introduction portion 95 properly. Even when the blood comes into contact with the blood introduction portion 95, the amount of blood reaching the test piece 92 is small, whereby accurate analysis result may not be obtained. Since the first case ~~91B~~ 91A is fixed to the housing 80 while the lancet 90 moves reciprocally along a predetermined path, the distance  $s$  between the path and the blood introduction portion 95 is always constant. In the prior art arrangement, therefore, to locate the blood introduction portion 95 close to the lancing position, the blood introduction portion 95 need be provided close to the needle 90a of the lancet 90 in the state of the lancing unit 9 shown in Fig. 26A (though this figure does not show the blood introduction portion). However, in actually designing and manufacturing the lancing unit 9, various points need be taken into consideration such as reduction in size of the entire unit and the airtightness of the first case 91A, so that it is sometimes difficult to locate the blood introduction portion 95 sufficiently close to the needle 90a of the lancet 90. Therefore, in the prior art arrangement, it is difficult to locate the blood introduction portion 95 sufficiently close to the lancing position, so that the amount of blood introduced to the test piece 92 is sometimes insufficient.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Subsequently, the operation cap 72 is pushed to advance the pusher 71. As a result, as shown in Fig. 16, each of the latch pawls 59a is disengaged from the edge of the relevant cutout 44, whereby the latch member 59 and the lancet holder 5 move downward by the resilient force of the spring 73 to cause the needle 21 of the lancet 2 to lance the skin 99. At this time, the body 20 of the lancet 2 partially engages the main body 32 of ~~the lancet holder 3~~ sensor holder 23, whereby the needle 21 is prevented from sticking deep into the skin 99 more than necessary. As shown in Fig. 10E, when the lancet holder 5 moves downward, the projections 52 move along the second guide grooves 43B, whereby the lancet holder 5 can move straight. As a result of the straight movement, the projections 52 can be located at a position which is similar to the initial position shown in Fig. 10A, which enables the repeating of the above operation.